

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 826

By Armstrong

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Sarah Moore Greene on the celebration of her 100th birthday.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pay tribute to those citizens who are celebrating special occasions in their estimable lives; and

WHEREAS, Sarah Moore Greene will celebrate her 100th birthday this month, a milestone that will be commemorated as yet another precious souvenir of life's rich pageant; and

WHEREAS, born in 1910 in Madisonville to Ike Moore, an emancipated slave, and Mary Toomey, a railroad cook, this iconic civil-rights leader has borne witness to many of the important epochs of the last century; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Greene attended Tennessee A&I, which is now known as Tennessee State University, in Nashville, where she majored in math and worked in the school's pastry department; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Greene moved to Knoxville in 1935, where she operated a kindergarten and worked with youth at an East Knoxville recreation center, earning the title "Mother Greene" from her charges; and

WHEREAS, though a lifelong Republican in tribute to her father's former owners and Abraham Lincoln, Mrs. Greene cherished her friendship with United States Senator Estes Kefauver, a standard-bearer for the Democratic Party, with whom she grew up; and

WHEREAS, during the 1950s and before his death in 1963, Mrs. Greene and Senator Kefauver worked together to break down racial barriers in the age of segregation; and

WHEREAS, in 1968, Mrs. Greene served as Tennessee's first African-American voting delegate to the Republican National Convention; eight years later, she became the first African-American to chair a national convention committee; and

WHEREAS, in 1969, Mrs. Greene became the first African-American elected to serve on the Knoxville Board of Education, where she fought for equal protection for children citywide; the city named a new elementary school in her honor in 1971; and

WHEREAS, also in 1971, after having served as President of the local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Mrs. Greene joined the group's national board of directors; and

WHEREAS, in 1975, Mrs. Greene was appointed by President Gerald Ford to serve on the National Advisory Council on the Education of Disadvantaged Children; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to accolades, Mrs. Greene has been honored by the Tennessee Lawyers Association of Women; last year, a Knoxville greenway was named in her honor as well; and

WHEREAS, in her remarkable life, Sarah Greene has touched many lives; she was married to her dear friend, William Greene, for twenty-one years, and she raised a nephew and a niece; and

WHEREAS, to this day, many of the hundreds of children, whose lives were forever changed by her loving guidance as their teacher, still call her "Mother" or "Auntie" Greene, a testimony to her indelible legacy; and

WHEREAS, as she enters into her eleventh decade, Sarah Greene remains an active and productive member of society, participating in various civic and community events, as her health permits; and

WHEREAS, we wish to grasp this golden opportunity to specially recognize one of Tennessee's most outstanding citizens on this very special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Sarah Moore Greene on the celebration

of her 100th birthday, applaud her many contributions to civil rights, and extend to her our best wishes for much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.